

**Minutes**  
**Pentagon Amateur Radio Club**  
[www.k4af.org](http://www.k4af.org)

**January 9, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by club president Dr. Gene Kaiser at 12:00 PM. Introductions of members present were made.

The 19 club members in attendance were: Hugh Katz – K3HU, John Croft – K3NJ, Phil Kania – KJ4GYJ, Terry Hines – N4ZH, Claude Hennessey – W4AT, Gene Kaiser – KI4BUI, Ron Startzel – KB5LNC, Jonathan Branker – KJ4GYR, Troy Warshel – KG6MGE, Cynthia Kellams – KJ4CLK, Dave Maples – WB4FUR, Gary Sessums – KC5QCN, Doug Donnell – KD4MD, Gary Thomas – KJ4EOU, Matt Skowronski – KJ4PUR, Howard Sterling – WB2AYE, Steven Karty – N5SK, Robert Wheeler WB9QOJ, and John Miller – KE4JEM.

A motion was made by Mr. Troy Warshel to approve both the November and December 2012 meeting minutes as distributed to club members via e-mail. Ms. Cynthia Kellams seconded the motion. The motion was approved by majority vote.

Mr. Uldis Adamsons gave an update on the status of the club's financial accounts.

It was noted that the 2013 ARRL January VHF Contest is scheduled for the weekend of January 19-21 from 1900 UTC Saturday through 0359 UTC Monday. The objective of the contest is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. The station is available for those wishing to participate in this event.

The Pentagon MARS Station has been requested to provide contingency radio communications support during the upcoming presidential inauguration Monday January 21, 2013 and again on Tuesday February 12, 2013 during the annual State of the Union address to Congress. Arlington County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will be conducting joint EmComm operations out of the radio room and net operations will be conducted on amateur radio, MARS, and SHARES frequencies. Several members volunteered to staff the station during these two National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) events.

It was noted that the Frostfest hamfest is scheduled for Saturday February 2, 2013 at the Richmond Raceway Complex [http://rats.net/j/images/ff2013/2013\\_mailorder\\_flyer.pdf](http://rats.net/j/images/ff2013/2013_mailorder_flyer.pdf) and that the Winterfest hamfest is scheduled for Sunday February 24, 2013 at the Annandale campus of Northern Virginia Community College <http://www.viennawireless.org/flyer/wf2013.pdf>.

Mr. Claude Hennessey reported that considerable progress had been made on clearing the station's backlog of amateur radio QSL card requests from previous special event station events. Most of the domestic and foreign addressee's requests have been mailed to those that included a SASE or an International Reply Coupon (IRC) and return envelope.

Mr. Ron Startzel gave a presentation and demonstration on inexpensive readily available components that one can buy online to assemble a 300 KHz to 1700 MHz wideband Software Defined Radio (SDR) receiver for a laptop computer as featured in an article contained in the January 2013 edition of the American Radio Relay League's journal, QST. Using a PAL standard HDTV-T dongle designed to receive digital television signals connected to a computer's USB port along with the associated software, the demonstration showed how by connecting to a wide band antenna, one can receive VHF radio signals and by connecting an up-converter device, HF radio signals, including AM broadcast, 160-6 meter ham bands, and Shortwave bands.

The next PARC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 6, 2013 at 12:00 PM in the Pentagon MARS Station, room 5D1061A.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.